



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, October 7, 2005

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CHAFEE TO SERVE AS A MONITOR FOR LIBERIA'S ELECTIONS

Will Travel to Monrovia at Request of Secretary of State

PROVIDENCE, RI – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will travel to Monrovia on Sunday, October 9th as part of a high level delegation to observe and monitor Liberia's October 11th presidential and congressional elections.

Senator Chafee was invited to help oversee Liberia's first election after over two decades of civil war by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. He will join former President Jimmy Carter, Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ), U.S. Ambassador Donald Booth and other Administration officials in visiting the polls on Election Day and observing the counting of ballots.

"This election is an important step in Liberia's return to democracy," said Senator Chafee. "The United States has close historic ties with Liberia, and I am proud to be representing my country as we continue to help Liberia recover from its bloody and oppressive civil war. I look forward to helping ensure that this is a fair election."

NOTE: Please contact Debbie Rich to schedule interviews prior to Senator Chafee's departure. Efforts will be made to coordinate satellite feeds from the Election Control Center if requests are emailed to debra_rich@chafee.senate.gov. A briefing for local Liberian community leaders and media is also planned in Providence on Friday, October 14th.